

## Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
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DRAFTED BY HA:RCOHEN  
APPROVED BY HA:PDERIAN  
ARA/ECA:RGRAHAM  
USOAS:MYOHN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177946

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, PINT, PA

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL REACTION TO LAINO ARREST

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. CONGRESSMAN DONALD FRASER JULY 11 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING  
PRESS RELEASE:

BEGIN TEXT: CONGRESSMAN DONALD M. FRASER DEPLORES TREAT-  
MENT OF DOMINGO LAINO.

TODAY REPRESENTATIVE DONALD FRASER (DFL - MINNESOTA)  
STRONGLY DEPLORED THE ABDUCTION IN ASUNCION, PARAGUAY,  
ON FRIDAY NOON, OF DR. DOMINGO LAINO. DR. LAINO, A  
MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY, PARTIDO LIBERAL RADICAL  
AUTENTICO (PLRA), RECENTLY RETURNED TO HIS COUNTRY AFTER  
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A VISIT TO THE US. DURING HIS VISIT HERE, DR. LAINO  
STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE REPRESSIVE POLICIES OF THE  
STROESSNER GOVERNMENT.

"THIS IS TRULY A TRAGIC EVENT," THE CONGRESS MEMBER SAID  
IN REFERENCE TO LAINO'S ABDUCTION. EYEWITNESSES REPORTED  
THAT TWO MEN FORCED DR. LAINO INTO THEIR VOLKSWAGEN,

BEGAN BEATING HIM AND DROVE HIM AWAY. LATER THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT DOMINGO LAINO WAS BEING DETAINED.

FRASER STATED: "THIS BLATANT AND CRUEL REPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH BY THE STROESSNER REGIME SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. THE TREATMENT OF DR. LAINO IS A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAT ARE GUARANTEED IN BOTH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS." PARAGUAY IS A SIGNATORY OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. END TEXT

2. SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY JULY 13 ENTERED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT INTO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS AND RELEASED IT TO THE PRESS:

BEGIN TEXT: LAST FRIDAY, ONLY TWELVE HOURS AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE RECENT ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, THE DISTINGUISHED PARAGUAYAN POLITICAN DOMINGO LAINO WAS BEATEN AND KIDNAPPED ON THE STREETS OF ASUNCION. THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOW ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT IS HOLDING DR. LAINO APPARENTLY WITHOUT CHARGE.

IN MEETINGS WITH BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS  
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IN WASHINGTON, DR. LAINO SPOKE OUT COMPELLINGLY FOR THE RETURN OF DEMOCRACY AND RESPECT FOR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN HIS HOMELAND. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT FOR THIS REASON, DR. LAINO HAS BEEN BEATEN, KIDNAPPED AND DETAINED. THIS BACKGROUND REINFORCES THE CONCERN OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT MISTREATMENT IN PARAGUAY.

THIS INCIDENT IS CONTRARY TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OF WHICH PARAGUAY IS A SIGNATORY. BUT OF EQUAL CONCERN, IT REPRESENTS A SETBACK IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN PARAGUAY, WHICH HAS YET TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS EXPRESSIONS OF WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

I HAVE CONSULTED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION ON DR. LAINO'S KIDNAPPING SINCE FIRST LEARNING OF IT ON JULY 7. I COMMEND AMBASSADOR WHITE FOR HIS PROMPT AND CONTINUING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN DR. LAINO'S RELEASE. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INSIST ON HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM DETENTION.

BECAUSE OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, PARAGUAY HAS ALREADY BEEN DENIED US MILITARY AID ASSISTANCE. IF IT

CONTINUES TO DETAIN DR. LAINO -- OR ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE HIM IN FALSE CHARGES -- THEN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONSIDER SUSPENDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THAT COUNTRY.

LET US GO ON RECORD AS VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTING THE CAUSE OF ONE MAN -- DR. DOMINGO LAINO -- WHO REPRESENTS THE BROADER CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM IN PARAGUAY. END TEXT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

3. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS UNDERTAKEN AN URGENT ACTION CAMPAIGN IN PARTICULAR TO SOLICIT TELEGRAMS FROM PROMINENT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES AND OTHERS. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS URGED THE INTERVENTION OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND REPORTS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE MATTER AT THE UN. THE ILHR JOINTLY WITH WOLA, AS NGOS IN OBSERVER STATUS AT THE IAHR, ARE REQUESTING THAT BODY TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON THE LAINO ARREST. COHA IS ATTEMPTING TO MOBILIZE STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT BY PROMINENT EUROPEAN STATESMEN AND HAS ADVISED US THAT CABLES TO STROESSNER HAVE BEEN SENT BY MARIO SOARES, WILLY BRANDT AND HELMUT SCHMIDT.

4. IAHR SOURCE INFORMS US COMMISSION RECEIVED A REPLY JULY 12 FROM THE GOP TO ITS JULY 7 CABLE STATING THAT THE GOP INTENDED TO REACTIVATE CHARGES AGAINST LAINO DATING BACK TO 1975 (GOP CASE 145) WITH RESPECT TO LAWS 209 AND 294 AND/OR FOR "NEW ACTIVITIES." (FYI: SOURCE SAYS LAINO BROUGHT WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE IAHR, CITED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THAT BODY DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE PARAGUAY REPORT.) END CONFIDENTIAL. CHRISTOPHER

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